

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State/Territory: Montana

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

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Survey and Certification Education Program

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The State has in effect the following survey and certification periodic educational program for the staff and residents (and their representatives) of nursing facilities in order to present current regulations, procedures, and policies.

The State's survey agency, the Department of Health and Environmental Science, uses three methods to provide educational programs to the staff and residents of nursing facilities:

1) Formal Workshops. One- or two-day workshops are presented by department staff to nursing facility staff on topics related to current regulations, procedures and policies. For example, in 1993, the department presented two-day workshops on resident assessments in three different sites; over 90% of the State's nursing facilities had staff who attended one of these workshops. The department is currently planning workshops on resident's rights to be presented to providers, residents, and members of the community.

2) Provider Organizations. Department staff routinely present updates on changes to survey and certification requirements at conferences sponsored by provider organizations such as the Montana Health Care Association and the Montana Hospital Association. These conferences are held regularly throughout the year and offer an excellent forum for department staff to reach nursing facility staff.

3) Survey Process. The department uses the survey process as a routine means of presenting on-going education to nursing facility staff and residents. Department staff use survey interviews with residents and their families as an informal means of presenting information about current regulations, procedures, and policies.